

REMARKS

Claims 29, 31-33 and 35-40, as amended, remain herein. Claims 29, 32 and 33 have been amended. New claims 37-40 have been added. Page 10, line 29 to page 11, line 30 of applicants' specification provides the added support for the amended and new claims.

1. Claim 32 is amended to moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

2. Claims 29, 31, 32, 33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over O'Boyle '329, Tanabe '767 and Ozaki JP410106042.

Ozaki JP410106042 is not prior art under U.S. patent law since Ozaki's Japanese publication date of April 24, 1998 fails to antedate applicants' domestic priority date of October 8, 1996. Thus, withdrawal of all rejections based on Ozaki JP410106042 is respectfully requested.

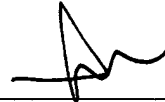
Further, neither O'Boyle '329 nor Tanabe '767 teaches or suggests the amended elements of claims 29 and 33. New claims 37-40 depend from either of claims 29 and 33 and are thus allowable over O'Boyle '329 and Tanabe '767.

Accordingly, all claims 29, 31-33, 35-40 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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